Distribution of fertilizers

†1060. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of ensuring equitable distribution of fertilizers, Government have reviewed the policy of allowing fertilizer producers to sell production in the open market in the new pricing norms introduced earlier;

(b) whether Government have now constituted a committee to examine issues pertaining to deregulation of fertilizer distribution which came into effect in 2003; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome of review and the final decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Under the new pricing scheme (NPS) of urea units, at present, 50% distribution of urea has been de-regulated and the urea manufacturers are free to sell 50% of their production in the open market anywhere in India on the notified maximum retails prices (MRP) in the current Kharif (1st April to 30th September, 2004) season. The Department will review the policy regarding extent of distribution decontrol under NPS as and when the situation arises.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Determination of Prices of Drugs

†1061. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some norms have been stipulated by Government by an institution designated by Government for determining the prices of drugs in the retails market in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether it is also a fact that consumer prices of many drugs in retails market have been placed at 100 percent or 1000 per cent more than their production cost; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Presently, the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 is in force. Pricing aspect of the Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002, announced in February, 2002 is before the Supreme Court in SLP(C) No. 3668/2003.

(c) and (d) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has collected data on trade margin being offered by the manufacturers to the retailers for a limited sample. It was noted that some manufacturers had offered high margin to the retailers, however, the market share of such medicines was small.

Demand of fertilizers

1062. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand of chemical fertilizers in the country is met with domestic production;

(b) if not, the percentage of average annual demand met by imported fertilizers;

(c) whether Government have fixed any target for marking the country self-dependent in respect of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the time-limit fixed for achieving the target?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The country is nearly self-sufficient in meeting the demand of nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers, namely Urea, DAP and NPK complexes. Whenever there is a gap in demand-supply situation of urea, the Government imports urea through State Trading Enterprises (STEs). As regard DAP, being a de-controlled and de-canalized fertilizer, its import depends on prevailing international prices and the domestic market demand-supply situation in the country. As regard MOP, the country